

2004 Internal Affairs Unit Report

A Police Officer shall perform all duties impartially, without favor or affection or ill will and without regard to status, sex, race, religion, political belief or aspiration. All citizens will be treated equally with courtesy, consideration and dignity. Officers will never allow personal feelings, animosities or friendships to influence official conduct. Laws will be enforced appropriately and courteously and, in carrying out their responsibilities, Officers will strive to obtain maximum cooperation from the public. They will conduct themselves in appearance and deportment in such a manner as to inspire confidence and respect for the position of public trust they hold.

A Police Officer acts as an official representative of government who is required and trusted to work within the law. The Officer's powers and duties are conferred by statute. The fundamental duties of a Police Officer include serving the community, safeguarding lives and property, protecting the innocent, keeping the peace and ensuring the rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.

To ensure that these goals and mission statements are fulfilled in a professional manner by the Police Officers, the Canton Police Department has in place an Internal Affairs Bureau which functions as a checks and balance and in essence is 'Police policing themselves'.

The Internal Affairs Unit is primarily responsible for conducting investigations of misconduct, allegations of a serious nature and those of a less serious nature. These allegations are generated both from the citizen population and from employees. The investigation of these complaints is conducted with three purposes in mind:

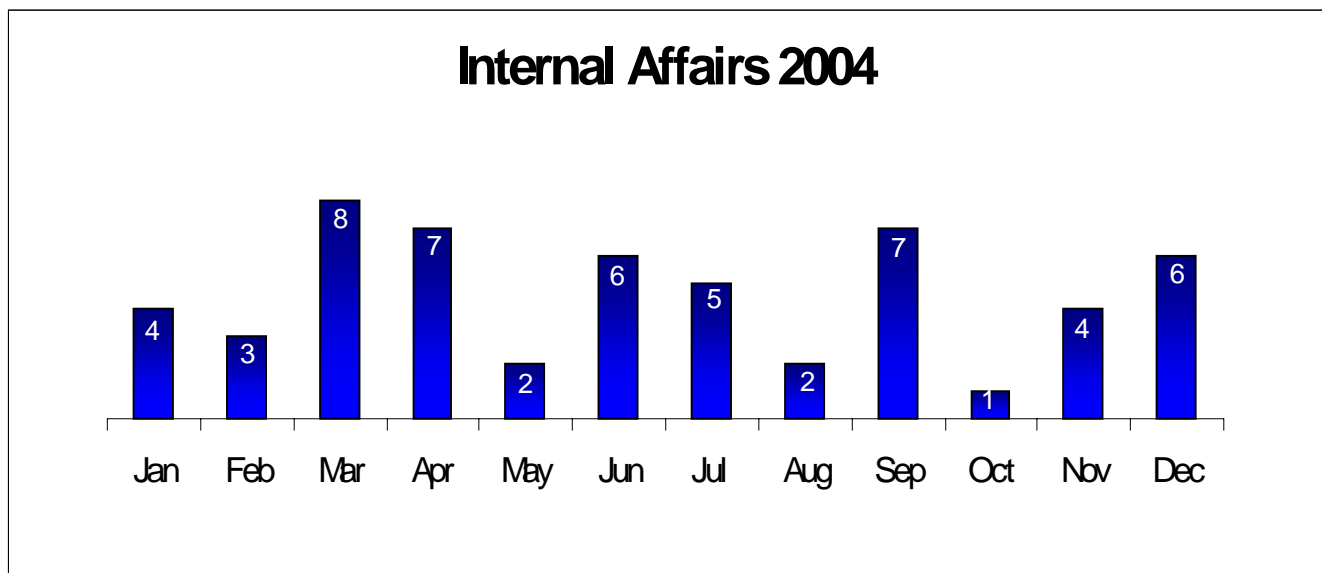
1. To protect the integrity of the Canton Police Department
2. To protect the public's interest
3. To protect the accused officers from unjust accusations

The Internal Affairs Bureau headed by Lieutenant R.W. Shank, is also staffed by Sergeant G. Boudreaux and their secretary Cynthia L. Jones, and is located on the 6th floor of City Hall in downtown Canton, Ohio. Information about us is available on our Internal Affairs web page at www.cityofcanton.com. There you can find how we operate, download a complaint form, e-mail us confidentially, or get a schedule of our meetings. Even this annual report is posted on our page as well. The site has been beneficial to the public researching information about Internal Affairs, as well as assisting law enforcement officials in current procedures and regulations.

The Mayor's Community Relations Commission, which has been in place since 2001, continues to work with Internal Affairs in a recommending capacity in reviewing completed cases. At their request, the Commission has reviewed approximately 32 cases from 2003 through 2004.

During 2003 and 2004, the Department's Internal Affairs Unit received 121 complaints, each generating a case for investigation. As each new case comes into the Department, information about the complaint including the date filed, allegations against the officers, as well as maintaining the current status of that investigation are updated. This report is then forwarded each month to various department heads including the Chief of Police and the City Safety Director for their review.

The following statistical graph will show the flow of cases to Internal Affairs as they occurred month to month during 2004.



While the actual strength of officers within the Police Department was at 169, there were 22 Canton Police Officers named as "Focus Officers" in Internal Affairs cases.

The cases are grouped into two separate types. 1) Departmental, when an employee or officer is filing against another employee or officer; 2) Citizen, when a citizen is the complainant against the employee or officer. The latter being the largest with 54 charges filed, and 25 departmental charges filed with the City of Canton. This total of 79 charges is a result of the 55 cases handled within Internal Affairs during 2004.

One case may contain two or more charges against an officer. For example, one complainant may accuse an officer of both police misconduct and department in the same case. Each charge implied is then thoroughly investigated, and a recommended disposition is presented to the Chief of Police for review and final approval.

The outcome, or disposition of each charge is set into six basic categories.

Sustained - (The allegation is supported)

Not Sustained - (Insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation)

Unfounded - (The allegation was false or did not occur)

Exonerated - (The alleged act occurred but was justified, legal and proper under the circumstances)

Referred - (To be decided by another authority)

Baseless/Frivolous - (Allegation holds no merit or is senseless in nature)

As a result of the 79 charges against City Personnel, below are the year 2004 dispositions based on these categories.

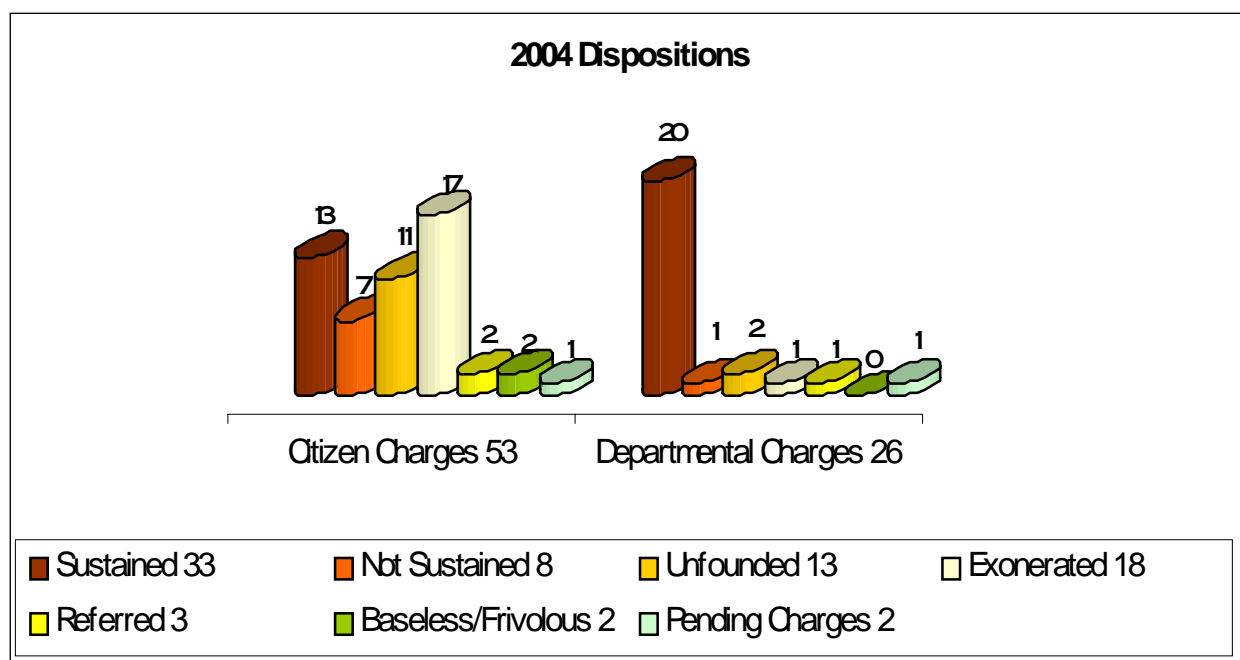
Charges Sustained	33	42% of total
Charges Not Sustained	8	10% of total
Charges Unfounded	13	16% of total
Charges Exonerated	18	23% of total
Charges Referred or Baseless	5	6% of total
Charges Pending Due Process	2	3% of total

Due to an investigation that was prompted by a citizen complaint in June of 2004, Internal Affairs recommended that two patrol officers who responded to the call receive commendations by the Chief for a job well done.

Any focus officer with charges that were sustained received the following disciplinary actions:

Letters of Training or Reprimand.....	6 officers
Counseled by Supervisor.....	3 officers
Suspended from duty 15 days	1 officer
Suspended from duty 60 days.....	1 officer
Officer Resigned.....	1 officer
Officer Terminated.....	1 officer
Still pending final disposition or due process.....	2 officers

The graph below shows an overview of findings by Internal Affairs for the year 2004.

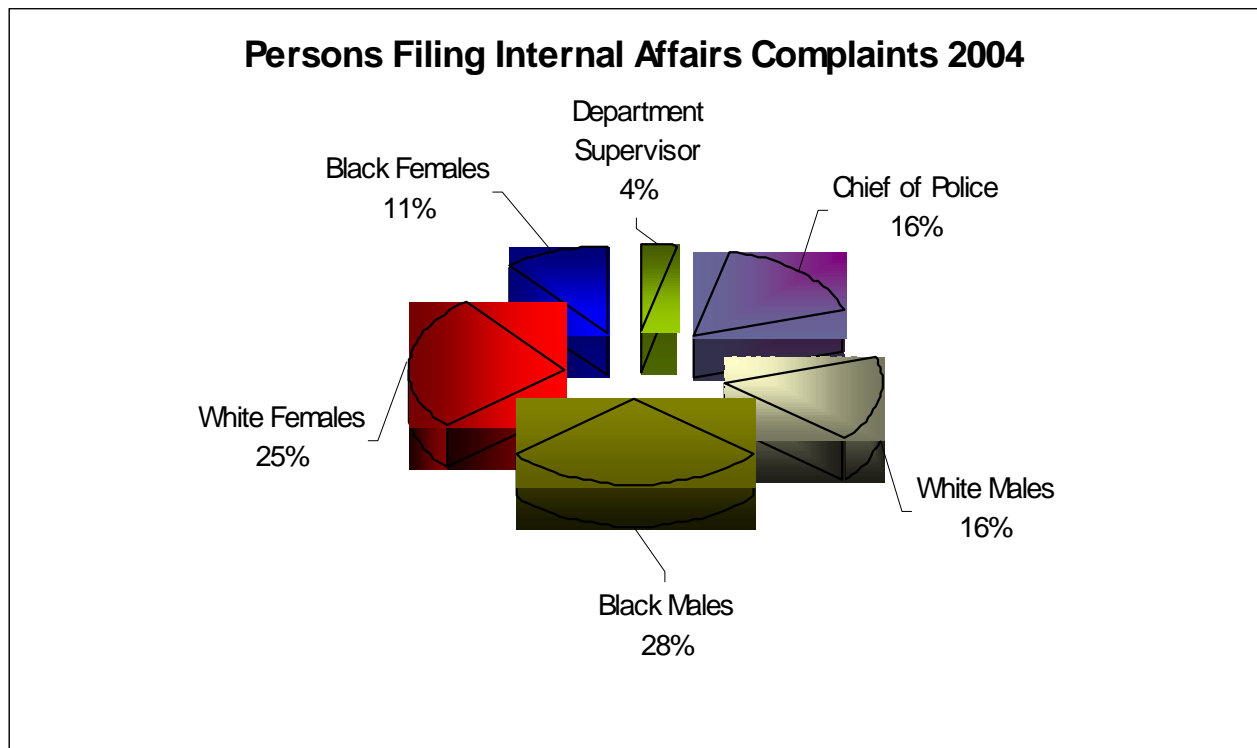


Complaints that are filed with Internal Affairs are precipitated by alleged conduct of an officer while on or even off duty. Most cases are instances when an officer comes into contact with a citizen, and that citizen is detained or arrested. Some however, are a result of their actions when off duty. Even then, police officers are expected to conduct themselves congruously so as not to discredit themselves or the department they serve.

Previously, excessive force and racial profiling have been an issue as it relates to both the public, and City officials as well. Internal Affairs has received 10 use of force and 4 racial profiling allegation out of a total of 79 charges during 2004. A breakdown of the 55 complainants who came into Internal Affairs during 2004 include:

Black Males	15
White Males	9
Black Females	6
White Females	14
Department Supervisors	2
Chief of Police	9

The overall percentage of persons who have filed cases with Internal Affairs is detailed in the below pie chart.



Lieutenant R. W. Shank, O.I.C.

Sergeant G. Boudreaux